



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE  
NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23460-5190

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Ser ADCH/

From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron Composite 12  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C.

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY REPORT FOR 1997

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F

Encl: (1) VFC-12 Mission/History/Narrative  
(2) F/A-18 Hornet description  
(3) Biography of C. E. Overcash  
(4) Photo of C. E. Overcash

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded.

  
J. K. TRUDELL

**FIGHTER SQUADRON COMPOSITE TWELVE  
FIGHTING OMARS  
COMMAND HISTORY AND MISSION**

**COMMANDING OFFICER  
CDR CHARLES E. OVERCASH  
OCT 96-FEB 98**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CDR JERRY R. TRUDELL  
OCT 96-FEB 98**

**COMMAND MASTER CHIEF  
AFCM(AW) R. J. STRYSKO  
JAN 97-JAN 00**

1. MISSION: The mission of the "Fighting Omars" as prescribed by the Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force (COMNAVAIRESFOR) is to provide support services and training to Regular and Reserve Aviation and Surface units in order to maintain Combat Readiness. Specific services include:

Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP)  
Fleet Replacement Squadron Fighter Training  
Air Combat Maneuvering  
Air to Air Tactics  
Air Intercept and Radar Tracking

2. HISTORY: Fighter Squadron Composite Twelve was originally commissioned VC-12 on 6 October 1943, at NAS Sand Point, Seattle, Washington. The squadron operated the F-4F "Wildcat" and TBM-1 "Avenger" aboard USS CARD (CVE-11) in WESTPAC until 1944 when the ship was reassigned to Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. VC-12 saw action against German U-boats in 34 engagements in 1944, and was decommissioned 7 June 1945.

On 6 July 1948, Carrier Air Early Warning Squadron TWO was commissioned at NAS Norfolk, Virginia. The squadron was redesignated Fleet Composite Squadron Twelve on 1 September 1948. VC-12 operated TBM-3 "Avengers" from most of the Atlantic Fleet carriers active at the time. The squadron saw action in Korea aboard the USS BON HOMME RICHARD. VC-12 was again decommissioned on 29 September 1953.

On 1 September 1973, at NAF Detroit, Michigan, VC-12 was recommissioned as the first Reserve Fleet Composite Squadron in Naval History. In 1975, VC-12 moved to its current location at NAS Oceana, Virginia. In June 1988, VC-12 was redesignated

Fighter Squadron Composite Twelve to more accurately describe the squadrons mission of Dissimilar Air Combat Training. Employing the venerable A-4F "Superfox" and the TA-4J, the squadron provided multiple support services including ACM training for Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Units.

In 1993, VFC-12 transitioned to the F/A-18 "Hornet" without disruption to fleet support. The A-4's were retired after 20 years of service logging over 87,000 flight hours of contributory support missions. Donning both a Kola peninsula and desert camouflage paint scheme, the Omars provide 4th generation adversary presentations of air-to-air threats that our forces may encounter.

VFC-12 was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Award in 1978, 1980, 1981, and 1992 as well as CVWR-20 Golden Wrench Award in 1993. VFC-12 was awarded the Noel Davis Trophy for squadron readiness for 1980, 1984, 1985 and 1995. The OMARS received a Meritorious Unit Commendation for sustained superior performance from 1 April 1987 to 31 March 1988 and again from 1 March 1990 to 30 September 1993.

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN 1997

- In CY-97 VFC-12 conducted (6) Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) exercises for Fleet F-14 & F/A-18 squadrons. VFC-12 along with Strike Weapons and Tactics School Atlantic (SWATSLANT) continued to led the way for Fleet Training with an improved single SFARP syllabus for all Navy and Marine Corps Strike Fighter Squadrons.

- The Omars assisted SWATSLANT with their transition as the "Keepers of SFARP" by providing Mission Commander Instructor Pilots to qualify the Strike Fighter Tactics Instructors (SFTI'S). VFC-12 maintains its vigilance as the "Threat Experts" by providing an in-depth lecture series covering Threat Aircraft, Threat Tactics, and Threat Weapons. The Omars are also the only Fleet Adversary unit providing advanced "Electronic Warfare" training with the ALQ-167 in conjunction with all NAS Oceana conducted SFARP exercises.

- November 1997, VFC-12 actively participated in the Adversary OAG conference hosted by NSAWC. VFC-12 was instrumental in submitting and subsequently gaining NSAWC approval for an improved Adversary Qualification Syllabus that reduces time to train. The improved efficiency of this new syllabus dramatically enhances the Air Wing's readiness to support the Fleet Adversary Mission. VFC-12's innovative recommendations and visionary

foresight are solving tomorrow's Fleet Adversary challenges.

- As always, the "Fighting Omars" spent a considerable amount of time away from home in support of fleet training. VFC-12 participate in (4) NAS Key West ACM Detachments and (1) NAS Fallon ACM Detachment.

3. NARRATIVE: The Omars of VFC-12 take great pride in the contributions they have made during an extremely busy and successful year providing fleet support services in CY-97. VFC-12 flew 2774 sorties and 3550 flight hours in CY-97, representing 107% of the original flight hour program. Moreover, as the Navy's only dedicated F/A-18 Adversary Squadron, the overwhelming majority of VFC-12's 3550 flight hours and 2774 sorties took place in the highly demanding ACM environment.

The Omars have been a key element in the successful transition to an all Reserve Navy Adversary program. Our goals remain clear and our people are focused on dedication to continued fleet support.